Miscellanea.

PUBLIC WORKS AT AND NEAR LIVERPOOL.—Probably there are no places in the kingdom, not even excepting the metropolis, where a larger amount of money is in process of expenditure in the construction of public works than there is at this moment in Liverpool and Birkenhead. Assize Courts (corporation), cost 80,000*l.*; New Gaol (corporation), cost 100,000*l.*; Albert Dock and Warehouses (dock committee), 600,000*l.*; New North Dock Works, including land and junction with Leeds Canal (dock committee), 1,500,000*l.*; Reservoirs, Green-lane, and corresponding works (highway commissioners), 50,000*l.*; Industrial Schools at Kirkdale (select vestry), 30,000*l.*; Gas Extension (New Gas Company), 140,000*l.*; Shaw-street Park (private shareholders), 2,500*l.*; making a gross total of 2,500,000*l.* All this is, of course, independent of many other works, some in progress and others in contemplation, with prospects of almost immediate commencement, which will probably absorb not less than another million. So that, in the whole, between three and four millions of money will have to be raised and expended before the various present designs for the promotion of charity, the convenience of commerce, and the improvement of the town, are completed. But, if much is going on in Liverpool in this way, more, in proportion to population and means, is doing on the Cheshire side of the water, at Birkenhead. The magnitude of the public works in progress at Birkenhead may be inferred from the following abstract, which is taken from the estimates:—New Market (commissioners), 20,000*l.*; Town Hall (commissioners), 10,000*l.*; Park (commissioners), 25,000*l.*; Docks in Wallasea Pool (commissioners, as trustees), 400,000*l.*; Dock Warehouses on the margin of Wallasea Pool (private company), 600,000*l.*; Tunnel from Monk's Ferry to Grange-lane (Chester and Birkenhead Railway), 20,000*l.*; making a gross total of 1,075,000*l.* After these statements, it will be admitted, we think, that there are very few, if any, places where the progression of works of a public nature is greater than in Liverpool and Birkenhead; and that, if there is any rivalry between them, it should only be as to which shall best accommodate the public.—*Manchester Guardian.*

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—The speaker's house, with several other apartments connected with the House of Commons adjoining St. Stephen's cloister, have been disposed of by auction by Mr. Horne, in order to be taken down for the formation of the entrance-hall to the centre hall of Westminster Palace. The sale took place in the smoking-room, and there was a numerous attendance of purchasers of building materials. Besides the speaker's house (which was but slightly injured at the conflagration of the Houses of Parliament) to be sold, there were the two refreshment rooms, the kitchen, and the smoking and coffee rooms, which had been built since the fire for the convenience of members of parliament. The whole were divided into 46 lots, and one of the conditions of the purchase was that the entire building should be removed within eighteen days. Some parts of the premises were erected in the Gothic style, and the floorings of some of the rooms were laid with oak, and were in good condition. The several lots went for about 437*l.* The brick-work, which was put up at 26*l.*, was knocked down for 14*l.* It was considered by the trade, in general, they fetched high prices.

THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—In the course of last week, workmen have been employed in putting up the bells in the belfry of the tower, under the direction of the contractors, Messrs. Mears, High-street, Whitechapel. The statue of Charles II., which was in the merchants' walk of the late building, will be placed in a niche at the east end on the south side. It is composed of statuary marble, but in such a decayed state that the sculptor has not been able to restore it to its original appearance. The flagstones are laid down in the merchants' colonnade, but it will be some time yet before the encaustic painting will be finished. The tesselated pavement has not been commenced around the base of the Wellington statue; the area is being laid with large square stones, which will be continued along the whole exterior of the building.

IRON MANUFACTURE.—We learn, from an official return, that the iron trade on the continent has been rapidly extending, and that the following is very nearly the relative proportion of the pig and bar iron manufactured in different states:—Prussia, 199 furnaces, worked with charcoal, employ 8,674 workmen, and produce about 120,000 tons of cast iron, equal in value to 730,000*l.* Wrought iron, in bar and plate, is made at 538 forges, employing 6,049 workmen, and producing 73,000 tons, of the value of 230,000*l.* Bavaria, 44 furnaces producing 9,000 tons of cast iron, and 141 forges, producing 5,750 tons of wrought iron. Wurtemburg, 6,400 tons of cast, and 2,500 tons of wrought iron.—Grand Duchy of Baden, 7,000 tons of cast, and 4,750 tons of malleable iron. Saxony, 7,500 tons of cast, and 4,650 tons of wrought iron. Electorate of Hesse, 4,150 tons of cast, and 900 tons of malleable. Grand Duchy of Hesse, 7,150 tons of cast, and 2,400 tons of malleable. Duchy of Nassau, 14,330 tons of cast, and 1,300 tons of bar iron, and 2,375 tons of different other sorts of iron, in bars, cast and wrought iron work. Duchy of Brunswick, 2,150 tons of cast, and 7,180 tons of wrought, iron, or works in cast iron. United States of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach, Saxe-Meinengen, Anhalt, Schazbourgh-Hohehzollern-Siegmaringen, Reuss, Waldeck, produce 4,035 tons of cast, and 2,240 tons of bar iron, or works in cast iron. German Luxembourg, 7,700 tons of cast iron. Total production of the States of the Zollverein, cast iron 191,156; wrought iron, or works in cast and wrought iron, 107,324 tons. In proportion to the population these quantities are not great, since it only amounts to about 15¼ lb. for each person throughout the Confederation. In France, where this manufacture is even yet but imperfectly developed, it amounts to above 22lbs.; in Belgium it is about 36lbs.; while in England it is as high as 55lbs. to 56lbs. for each person. All, or nearly all, the Zollverein States are engaged in the iron manufacture.—*Railway Chronicle.*

FALL OF TWO HOUSES NEAR EUSTON-SQUARE.—At one o'clock on Wednesday morning much alarm was created in the neighbourhood by the fall of two unfinished houses in Seymour-place, North, Euston-square. They were erected on the site of a garden belonging to the corner house in the square, and were nearly completed so far as relates to the building, but little progress had been made in the completion of the interior. There is little doubt, from the total destruction which has ensued, that the foundations of both houses must have given way—one, probably, in consequence of the shock incurred in the fall of the other. Each fell outward—not towards the street, but against the backs of other houses, from which the distance was small. Of these, the one on the east side has sustained considerable injury, the whole of the drawing-room windows being dashed in, and apparently great damage done in the basement story. The only part of this construction which seems to have been adequately secured is the party-wall, which stands perfectly erect, bearing a row of chimneys, although entirely stripped on one side, and nearly detached on the other. Providentially, no person received any injury; the new buildings were of course empty, and although the inmates of the one in such dangerous propinquity were much frightened, no one personally suffered. An inquiry into the responsibility for such a defective construction is imperatively required.—*Times.*

CARISBROOK CASTLE.—A letter from Newport, dated Tuesday week, contains the following:—"The desecration of this great and beautiful attraction to the thousands of persons who annually visit this island, by the sale by auction, for building purposes, of the plantations and meadows which surround Carisbrook Castle, is happily prevented. Government has acceded to the loudly-expressed and unanimous petition of the islanders, by becoming the purchasers of the property. In addition to the pleasure of being enabled both to preserve the hanging woods from the pollution of brick and mortar, and of thus complying with the wishes of the petitioners, they will have the satisfaction of knowing that the favour will occasion little if any loss. The rentals of the meadows will nearly pay the interest of the purchase-money.—*Ipswich Journal.*

Current Prices of Metals.

COPPER—Brit. Cake, p. ton	0	0	0	—	84	0	0
Tile	82	0	0	—	83	0	0
Sheet, p. lb.	0	0	0	—	0	0	9¼
Bottoms	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Old	0	0	0	—	0	0	8¼
South Amer., ton	72	0	0	—	73	0	0
Foreign Cake	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Tile	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
IRON, British	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Bars	0	0	0	—	6	0	0
Rods	6	15	0	—	7	0	0
Hoops	8	0	0	—	8	5	0
Sheets	8	15	0	—	9	0	0
Cargo in Wales, Bars	0	0	0	—	5	0	0
IRON, Pigs No. 1, Wales	3	10	0	—	4	0	0
No. 1, Clyde	0	0	0	—	2	11	0
Russian, CCND	0	0	0	—	16	10	0
PSI	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Archangel	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Swedish	9	10	0	—	9	15	0
Gourieff's	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
LEAD—British, Pig, p. ton	16	10	0	—	17	0	0
Sheet, milled	0	0	0	—	17	15	0
Bars	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Shot, patent	0	0	0	—	19	15	0
Red or Minium	0	0	0	—	21	10	0
White	0	0	0	—	23	10	0
Litharge	0	0	0	—	20	0	0
Pig, Spanish	16	0	0	—	16	10	0
American	0	0	0	—	16	0	0
STEEL—English	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
Swedish Keg	16	0	0	—	16	10	0
Faggot	0	0	0	—	17	0	0
TIN—In blocks, p. cwt.	3	12	0	—	3	13	0
Ingots	3	12	0	—	3	13	0
In Bars	0	0	0	—	3	13	6
Banca	3	5	6	—	3	6	0
Straits	3	3	6	—	3	4	0
Peruvian	0	0	0	—	2	17	0
Plates, p. box, 225 shts.—							
No. I. C. 13¾ by 10 in.	1	7	0	—	1	13	0
I. X.	1	13	0	—	1	19	0
I. XX	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
IXXX	182 lb.				0	0	0
IXXXX	203				0	0	0
No. II. C. 13¾ by 9¾ in.	105				0	0	0
II. X.	133				0	0	0
III. C. 12¾ by 9¼ in.	98				0	0	0
III. X.	126				0	0	0
Small Double SDC (200 shts. 15 by 11)	167				0	0	0
Small Double SDX (200 shts. 15 by 11)	188				0	0	0
Small Double SDXX (200 shts. 15 by 11)	209				0	0	0
SDXXX	230				0	0	0
SDXXXX	251				0	0	0
Double C. 16¾ by 12¼ in.	98				0	0	0
Double X.....100 sheets	126				0	0	0
Double XX	147				0	0	0
Double XXX	168				0	0	0
Double XXXX	189				0	0	0
Jaggers, 14 by 10 in.	—				0	0	0
SPELTER—On the spot, ton	0	0	0	—	21	0	0
Delivery	0	0	0	—	21	5	0
ZINC, English Sheet	0	0	0	—	30	0	0
PLATINA ORE ..... oz.	0	0	0	—	0	0	0
OBSIDEW ..... lb.	0	0	0	—	0	3	0
QUICKSILVER ..... lb.	0	0	0	—	0	4	6

Tenders.

TENDERS delivered for building two School-Rooms, &c., at Northampton. The style English of the 17th century.—Mr. E. F. Law, Architect. Aug. 29.

Jeffry	£1,465 0
Whiting	1,398 0
Smith	1,259 7
Ireson	1,254 0
Cave	1,236 0
Masters	1,197 0
Fisher	1,148 0

TENDERS delivered for general Repairs to be done at No. 24, Bedford-square, under the directions of Messrs. Wigg and Pownall, Architects, No. 7, Bedford-square.

Winsland	£347 0
Locke and Nesham	293 0
Battam and Craske	281 9
Thomas	185 15

Mr. Thomas was allowed to withdraw his tender, and Battam and Craske's was accepted.

TENDERS delivered for erecting Wesleyan Chapel at Dalston, in the parish of Hackney.—Mr. John Parkinson, Architect.

Hort	£925
Smith	890
Ashby, Bishopsgate-street	874
Morris, Hackney	847
Elston	797
Hayworth, Kingsland	749

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